The two countries have earlier signed the Agreement on the Political Paramaeters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question on April 11, 2005, which envisages a three-stage process in seeking a politcal settlement of the boundary question.

Houses for weaker sections

478. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of houses for weaker sections, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to provide accommodation to these weaker sections of the society;

(c) whether cost of construction has gone up manifold;

(d) if so, whether any schemes are available to provide interest free loans to weaker sections of the society; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) A Technical Group on Estimation of Housing shortage has estimated Housing Shortage of 24.71 million at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan in urban areas. Out of this, 99% of the shortage pertains to Economically Weaker Sections and Low Income Groups. Government of India has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to cope with the problem of shortage in housing and infrastructure services in a mission mode for 63 select cities under Basic Services to Urban Poor. For remaining cities, a scheme namely Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme has also been launched under JNNMURM. The component of assistance under the scheme includes upgradation and new construction of houses and infrastructural facilities like water supply and sanitation as part of slum improvement. Both BSUP and IHSDP are demand driven schemes and the fixation of targets as well as quantum of progress depends upon proposals submitted by State Governments/Local Bodies.

(c) to (e) The Government is concerned about the rise in process of houses. The Government, with a view of providing interest rate subsidy for housing loans availed by the urban poor including SCs/STs has made budget provision of Rs. 30.00 crores in the financial year 2007-08.

Houses for slum dwellers in Nagpur

†479. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of people living in the slum in cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Nagpur has doubled;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any plan to settle/rehabilitate them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of houses contructed for the slume dwellers of Nagpur and the number of houses planned to be constructed in future?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Census of India has brought out estimates of slum population in select cities and towns for the first time in 2001. The figures of slum population for Delhi, Greater Mumbai and Nagpur are 18.51 lacs, 64.75 lacs and 7.37 lacs respectively. Estimates of slum population at two points of time for the cities and towns are not available. As such, no conclusion regarding the exact increase in the number of people living in slums can be drawn.

(b) and (c) With a view to provide housing and basic services to the urban poor including slum dwellers, the Government has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005. The Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) component of JNNURM assists 63 identified cities with projects for construction of houses and provision of basic services to the urban poor. Other cities/towns are covered under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) component of JNNURM. Additional Central Assistance is provided to States to the tune of 50% to 90% of project cost under Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and 80% to 90% of project cost under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) depending upon the category of the city/town.

(d) A total of 5121 houses for slum dwellers of Nagpur have been sanctioned by the Government under BSUP. Being a demand-driven scheme, additional number of houses to be sanctioned under BSUP for Nagpur will depend upon Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) conforming to BSUP Guidelines subject to the limit of total allocation of funds by the Planning Commission for the State of Maharashtra.

Houses in A.P. under BSUP and IHSDP

480. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested his Ministry to sanction additional one lakh houses for the State, 50,000 under Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP) scheme and 50,000 under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP);

(b) if so, the latest position of the above said proposals;

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning this proposal; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to accord approval to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for sanction of 50,000 houses under Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP) and 50,000 houses under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) on 28.10.2006. So far 79320 houses under BSUP and 29257 houses under IHSDP have been approved for the State of Andhra Pradesh. The allocation of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Andhra Pradesh by the Planning Commission is Rs. 868.46 Crore under BSUP and Rs. 579.71 crore under IHSDP for 7 years period 2005-2012. As against these allocations for 7 year Mission Period, projects involving ACA of Rs. 691.20 crore under BSUP and Rs. 248.32 crore under IHSDP have already been approved for Andhra Pradesh.